IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are included below.

1.   (Currently Amended) ~~An intermediate streaming node~~ A system comprising:

a primary root splitter to split a data stream transmitted from an upstream server into a plurality of leaf splitter streams;

a plurality of leaf splitters to split each of said leaf splitter streams into a plurality of end user streams, wherein one or more of said plurality of leaf splitters is a backup root splitter; ~~and~~

a monitoring subsystem to monitor the status of the primary root splitter; and

~~root splitter reassignment logic~~ an agent to ~~reassign~~ reconfigure one of said backup root splitters as a new primary root splitter responsive to detecting a problem with said primary root splitter.

2.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ system as in claim 1 further comprising a load balancer module to direct client streaming requests to particular leaf splitters based on relative load on said leaf splitters.

3.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ system as in claim 1 further comprising a redirection subsystem to redirect client streaming requests to a particular point of presence site

4.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ system as in claim 2 further comprising load balancer update logic for removing said backup leaf splitter from

said plurality of leaf splitters to which said load balancer directs user streaming requests responsive to said backup root splitter being reassigned as a primary root splitter.

5.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ <u>system</u> as in claim 3 further comprising redirection subsystem update logic for notifying said redirection subsystem of said new primary root splitter responsive to said backup splitter being ~~reassigned~~ <u>reconfigured</u> as said new primary root splitter.

6.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ <u>system</u> as in claim 5 wherein said redirection subsystem update logic transmits said new primary root splitter's IP address to said redirection subsystem.

7.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ <u>system</u> as in claim 1 further comprising publish point update logic for updating publishing points within said system responsive to said backup root server being reassigned as said primary root server.

8.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ <u>system</u> as in claim 1 further comprising:

    <u>a primary root splitter agent to periodically transmit a heartbeat signal to said monitoring subsystem, the heartbeat signal indicating that said primary root splitter is</u> ~~monitoring logic for monitoring said primary root splitter to determine whether said root splitter is~~ <u>operating within normal parameters</u>.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Currently Amended) The ~~intermediate streaming node~~ <u>system</u> as in claim 8 wherein said monitoring ~~logic~~ <u>subsystem</u> transmits a monitor signal to said primary root splitter <u>agent</u>, and wherein not receiving a response from said <u>primary</u> root splitter <u>agent</u> indicates a problem with said primary root splitter.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method comprising:

monitoring <u>status of</u> a primary root splitter to ensure that said primary root splitter is operating within predefined parameters, said primary root splitter to split a single data stream transmitted from an upstream server into multiple data streams transmitted to multiple leaf splitters<u>, the leaf splitters to split each of said leaf splitter streams into a plurality of end user streams, wherein one or more of said plurality of leaf splitters is a backup root splitter</u>; ~~and~~

<u>detecting a problem with the primary root splitter; and</u>

~~reassigning~~ <u>reconfiguring</u> one of said leaf splitters as a new primary root splitter responsive to detecting that said primary root splitter is not operating within said predefined parameters.

12.   (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 11 further comprising:

updating a load balancer module to indicate that said <u>backup</u> leaf splitter is reassigned as a primary root splitter, said load balancer module for distributing user streaming requests to one or more of said leaf splitters based on load on each of said leaf splitters.

13.   (Currently Amended) The computerized method as in claim 11 further comprising:

updating a redirection subsystem to indicate that said <u>backup</u> leaf splitter is

~~reassigned~~ <u>reconfigured</u> as a primary root splitter, said redirection subsystem for directing

client streaming requests to a particular point of presence site.

14.   (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 13 further comprising:

updating a load balancer module at said point of presence site to indicate that said

<u>backup</u> leaf splitter is reassigned as a new primary root splitter, said load balancer module

for distributing user streaming requests to one or more of said leaf splitters at said point

of presence site based on load on each of said leaf splitters.

15.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method as in claim 13 wherein

updating said redirection subsystem comprises transmitting said new primary root

splitter's IP address to said redirection subsystem.

16.   (Previously Presented) The computerized method as in claim 11 further

comprising:

updating one or more broadcast publish points to indicate said new primary root

splitter.

17-21. (Cancelled)

22.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including a sequence of

instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to:

monitor status of a primary root splitter to ensure that said primary root splitter is

operating within predefined parameters, said primary root splitter to split a single data

stream into multiple data streams transmitted to multiple leaf splitters, the leaf splitters to

split each of said leaf splitter streams into a plurality of end user streams, wherein one or

more of said plurality of leaf splitters is a backup root splitter; and

detect a problem with the primary root splitter; and

reassign reconfigure one of said leaf splitters as a new primary root splitter

responsive to detecting that said primary root splitter is not operating within said

predefined parameters.

23.   (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 22 including additional

instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to:

update a load balancer module to indicate that said leaf splitter is reassigned as a

primary root splitter, said load balancer module for distributing user streaming requests to

one or more of said leaf splitters based on load on each of said leaf splitters.

24.   (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 23 including additional

instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to:

update a redirection subsystem to indicate that said leaf splitter is reassigned as a

primary root splitter, said redirection subsystem for directing client streaming requests to

a particular point of presence site.